



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Mokuleia, HI	Accident Number:	WPR19MA177
Date & Time:	06/21/2019, 1822 HST	Registration:	N256TA
Aircraft:	Beech 65A90	Injuries:	11 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Skydiving		

On June 21, 2019, at 1822 Hawaii-Aleutian standard time, a Beech 65-A90, N256TA, collided with terrain after takeoff from Dillingham Airfield (HDH), Mokuleia, Hawaii. The commercial pilot and ten passengers sustained fatal injuries, and the airplane was destroyed. The airplane was owned by N80896 LLC, and was being operated by Oahu Parachute Center (OPC) under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a local sky-diving flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed.

According to the owner of OPC, the accident flight was the fourth of five parachute jump flights scheduled for that day. Two flights took place between 0900 and 0930 and the third departed about 1730 on the first of what OPC called, "sunset" flights. The occupants on the accident flight included the pilot, three tandem parachute instructors and their three customers, and two camera operators; two solo jumpers decided to join the accident flight at the last minute.

The passengers were loaded onto the airplane while it was on the taxiway next to the OPC facility on the southeast side of the airport. A parachute instructor at OPC observed the boarding process and watched as the airplane taxied west to the departure end of runway 8. He could hear the engines during the initial ground roll and stated that the sound was normal, consistent with the engines operating at high power. When the airplane came into his view as it headed toward him, it was at an altitude of between 150 and 200 ft above ground level and appeared to be turning. He could see its belly, with the top of the cabin facing the ocean to the north. The airplane then struck the ground in a nose-down attitude, and a fireball erupted.

The final second of the accident sequence was captured in the top left frame of a surveillance video camera located at the southeast corner of the airport. Preliminary review of the video data revealed that just before impact the airplane was in an inverted 45° nose-down attitude.

Runway 8/26 at Dillingham Airfield is a 9,007-ft-long by 75-ft-wide asphalt runway, with displaced thresholds of 1,993 ft and 1,995 ft, respectively. A parachute landing area was located beyond the departure end of runway 8, and the standard takeoff procedure required a left turn over the adjacent beach to avoid that landing zone. The displaced threshold areas had been designated for sailplane and towplane use, with powered aircraft advised to maintain close base leg turns to assure separation.

The airplane came to rest inverted on a heading of about 011° magnetic, 500 ft north of the runway centerline, and 5,550 ft beyond the runway 8 numbers, where the takeoff roll began. The debris field was confined to a 75-ft-wide area just inside the airport perimeter fence. The cabin, tail section, and inboard wings were largely consumed by fire, and both wings outboard of the engine nacelle sustained leading edge crush damage and thermal exposure. Both engines came to rest in the center of the debris field, and fragments of the vertical and both horizontal stabilizers were located within the surrounding area.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N256TA
Model/Series:	65A90	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	Oahu Parachute Center	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHHI, 840 ft msl	Observation Time:	0456 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 20° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 5000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 180°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7000 ft agl	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Mokuleia, HI (HDH)	Destination:	Mokuleia, HI (HDH)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	10 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	11 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	21.580556, -158.188333

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Elliott Simpson
Additional Participating Persons:	Eric West; Federal Aviation Administration AVP-100; Washington, DC Marc Hamilton; Transportation Safety Board of Canada; Ottawa, FN Peter Basile; Textron Aviation; Wichita, KS
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.